The Orthodox Herald

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THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost means the fiftieth day after Easter. It's significance is that it is the commemoration of The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the beginning of their Christian ministry. As we know, Jesus had told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for a sign. And did they ever get one? They couldn't miss it! A hurricane type of wind came accompanied by darting tongues of fire. When they tried to speak, they spoke foreign languages but they were able to understand each other. St. Peter tried to explain what has happened.

You can read all of this in Acts 2:1-41. That was then; but what about us today? What does this all mean to me?

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. We pray that He comes among us. Certainly many special prayers are said on this day. But you may well say that He has already come to each of us personally when we were anointed with the blessed Chrism in the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation, which was part of our Holy Baptism.

In our Baptism, we died to sin, were buried in the water of regeneration and then rose with Christ in the Resurrection. Just as truly as Pentecost follows Easter/Pascha, so the Holy Spirit descended upon us after our baptism.

We should bear in mind the place the Holy Spirit plays in the life of Our Lord and in our own lives. In His Life: He is born; the spirit is His forerunner; He leads Him up. Christ works miracles; the Spirit accompanies them. Christ ascends to the Father; the Holy Spirit takes His place. In our lives: the Holy Spirit wishes to invite Him to participate in our daily living. Just as Christ our Saviour did; we, too, must work together with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

On that first Pentecost, the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. Their enthusiasm was so infectious that some 3000 people became the "first fruits" of the Christian Church. How do our gifts of the Holy Spirit inspire ourselves and others?



The cupolas, icons and three-barred cross identify those who trace their religion from the Russian Orthodox Church. The three-bared cross tells the story of the crucifixion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The top bar identified Him as the King of the Jews, the middle bar was for His outstretched arms and the bottom bar tells us that there were two thieves crucified along with Jesus. The one on the left recognized Jesus and asked to be remembered when Jesus came into His kingdom. The other thief blasphemed Him. For this reason the bottom bar is slanted. It depicts the good thief going to heaven, the bad one going below. See Luke 23: 38-43.

If you wish to display a three-bared cross, you may order a sticker like the one pictured above. It is done in weatherproof vinyl gold leaf. Send $5 to Figula and Daughters, P.O. Box 15, Glen Hope, PA 16645 or call 814-672-5597. Proceeds go to Orthodox missions.

ALWAYS SAID

When we went to Russian School almost a half century ago, we started our lessons by standing near our desks and singing; "O Heavenly King". Later, on occasions, when we had to recite the prayer, we couldn't do it without singing it "in our

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OUR CALL TO WORSHIP

One of the most distinctive features of Orthodox churches are the church bells. Besides the cupolas and three-barred crosses, they may be one of the first things a non-Orthodox notices about our churches. For Orthodox Christians, it is first and foremost our call to worship. The ringing of the bells announces the beginning of the Divine Liturgy.

But the church bells do more than call out to us to "come to church" each Sunday. They peal out various messages for all those who can hear them. For those absent from Divine Liturgy, the bells indicate the solemn part of the service when the Holy Gifts are being consecrated.

As a child of about eight, I recall helping Gedo in his garden and hearing the sound of our church bell some blocks away. It was early one summer evening and I was confused by the timing. Gedo informed me that the ringing of the bell now told us that someone in the parish had died.

And who among us has not been moved by the continuous peal of the church bells as we process around the church on Holy Pascha. The stillness of the night air is broken by the bells joyously announcing Christ's Resurrection.

Church bells in Russia carried an enormous importance. Bells were named for saints and had an icon of that saint etched on the face of the bell. They were blessed and treated with great respect.

The importance of church bells was carried to this country by the early immigrants. It was recorded at a parish meeting dated July, 1925 that a decision was made to purchase a bell weighing no less than eight hundred pounds. It was determined that the bell should be purchased before the building of the church was completed so that the builders could raise it to the bell tower upon completion of the building of the church.

In October of that year, a bell weighing nine hundred pounds was purchased for $700. A list of donations from organizations and individuals is on record totaling $850.50. The bell was "consecrated" on

(Continued on Page 9, Col. 1)

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News CHRONOLOGY

JUNE 2000

DIED: Pani Brenda Conrad, wife of Fr. Michael, No. Royalton, OH.

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN DENTAL OUTREACH PROGRAM is in its 10th year. This is a pan-jurisdictional effort comprised of dental health care professionals interested in providing health care services to people in Orthodox countries and to Orthodox mission sites around the world. Volunteers are needed for 1 to 2-week stints. Call 502-897-2040 or write 4010 Dupont Circle, Suite 524, Louisville, KY 40207.

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN CHURCH in Montreal, Canada, has been restored with grants of almost 1 million dollars from the Federal and Provincial governments. The church was given "Historic Site" status, as the icons and paintings in the Church were done by Emmanuel Briffa. He also painted the West Wing of the White House in Washington and over 200 movie theatres across North America during the 1930s and 40s. The icons in St. George's were the only examples of his religious paintings in Canada. A ten-month restoration effort uncovered an unconventional blend of Byzantine, Renaissance and Art Deco styles.

SCOBA HAS SCHEDULED millennium celebrations for young people. One pilgrimage is being planned for young people from Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey. It will be held at St. Basil Academy in Garrison, NY on July 15 and 16. For info, call Fr. Peter Paproski, Pilgrimage Coordinator, at 203-475-2564.

COMPOSER OF ORTHODOX MUSIC and highly respected in the music world, John Tavener was knighted. His work was included in the program of Princess Diana's funeral. It received much favorable comment.

COME AND SEE a weekly Orthodox radio program is aired from 5-6 p.m. on Sundays on WERE, 1300 AM in the Cleveland, OH area.

VISAS for scholars and students from Russia wanting to study in the USA have been sharply reduced. U.S. Embassy officials fear that they will try to settle permanently in the U.S.

THOSE LOOKING FOR GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION on relatives from northeast Pennsylvania can contact Genealogical Research Society, Box 1, Olyphant, PA 18447-0001.

THE CARE MINISTRY of St. Paraskevi Church was organized to reach out to patients in 17 nursing homes, to be homebound, and to patients in the VA Hospital. All volunteers visit patients at least twice a month, most do every week. Workshops are held before Christmas and Easter to prepare gifts for the visited. They are willing to help any parish group to start a Care Ministry. Call 631-261-7272.

THE GOAL OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS has been reached by the Patriarch Mytsyslav Endowment Fund. This was set up to benefit the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, headquartered in Bound Brook, NJ.

BISHOP OF YOKOHAMA PETER (ARIHARU) was installed as head of the Japanese Orthodox Church. Patriarch Alexei II, Metropolitan Theodosius, and Archbishop Herman were in Tokyo for the festivities beginning on May 12 or 13. The stay for 1 week included "political, public and inter-religious contacts." There are about 30,000 Orthodox and 150 churches or prayer houses in Japan.

DELEGATES OF THE PATRIARCHATES OF Constantinople and Moscow met in Geneva March 28 to discuss matters of concern. Among these: the legal rights of the Estonian Orthodox Church, the need to achieve peace and canonical unity in the church life in Ukraine, the parishes in Hungary and Cuba, and problems involved with the Orthodox presence in the World Council of Churches.

UKRAINE MAY BECOME a pensioners' country in the next 5 to 10 years, according to the president of Ukraine's Renaissance Fund. A steady flight of youth to other countries in the West looking to better themselves. Ukraine will soon experience a lack of productive young people.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL OF LITURGICAL MUSIC will be held at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, NY from 2-15 July. Various courses for beginning, experienced choir directors and cantors and for those interested. In addition, Choral Techniques Workshop will be held from July 16-22 for the experienced church choir director and singer. Contact: Rev. Andre Papkov, 54 Fourth St., Ilion, NY 13357 or phone 315/894-6274.

PASTOR IGOR "NIKI" NIKITIN, President of the Association of Christian Churches from St. Petersburg, Russia spoke before a Congressional hearing in Washington, DC on Feb. 17 in which he said: "I would like to thank the U.S. Congress for its work in seeking solutions to the issue of freedom of conscience in Russia."

A FREE WEB SITE is being given to parishes of the Greek Archdiocese as a part of a national initiative to connect every diocese and parish in America to its Internet.

THE OFFICIAL CHURCH CELEBRATIONS honoring the 2000 anniversary of the Nativity of Christ will extend from August 13 to 20 in Moscow. As part of this celebration, the consecration of the Church of Christ the Saviour will take place on August 19 on the Holy Day of the Transfiguration. The following day, several saints will be glorified in the historic cathedral of the Dormition, which is located in the Kremlin.

THE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE to the women's Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, PA will be held on August 5, 6. For info, call 724/758-4002.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES, CALENDARS, ETC. of all jurisdictions are sought by Robert J. Klancko, to glean historical information. He will pay postage. Contact him at rjklancko@mindspring.com or fax 203-393-2539.

THE SLAVIC DEPARTMENT at the University of Pittsburgh will hold many institutes of various Slavic languages from June 12-July 21. They can carry college credits. Open to those of any age. Contact Christine Metil at 412/624-5906 or e-mail slavic +@pitt.edu.

•Always Said

heads." The prayer is a very important one which was composed to be used at the vespers of Pentecost. As we take it apart and study it, we better appreciate its beauty.

"O Heavenly King, the comforter, the Spirit of Truth who art everywhere present and fillest all things. Treasurer of blessings and Giver of Life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One."

This is the only prayer addresses directly to the Holy Spirit. We call on God and ask Him to be in us as a personal gift.

We call the Holy Spirit "Heavenly King" because He leads us into the Kingdom of Heaven.

We call Him "Comforter" because He wipes away all tears and changes sorrow into joy so that the love of God may encompass our world.

Invoking the Holy Spirit, we speak of Him as to a person, as to One in the Holy Trinity. The person of the Holy Spirit may be difficult for us to understand and relate to, but His gifts are well documented in the New Testament. They are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. Often these gifts are fulfilled in teaching, prophecy and preaching; but, especially in faith, in the sharing of hope and in the awe of life and love. In giving these gifts, the Holy Spirit gives Himself.

What are you doing with the gifts the Holy Spirit gave you at Baptism and Chrismation?

•Our Call To Worship

November 15, 1925. A memory is recalled from that time: "I remember seeing our church bell before it was raised to its tower. It was still in a crate and stood on the ground beside the church. I was a very little girl and it looked so big."

The bell is inscribed with the names of major benefactors – three individuals and two lodges. Russian Brotherhood Organization #123 and Archangel Michael #187 each donated $300 for the bell. A list of all other contributors giving from $5 to 50¢ appeared in church records. The list not only represented the Russian Orthodox parishioners, but also members of the city's Orthodox community who, no doubt, understood the importance of the bell and wanted to contribute. (Through research, it was roughly determined that $1 in 1925 would have been approximately $20 in 1990.)

It is sad to note that today church bells no longer receive the respect that they once had. In some residential areas church bells are frowned upon because some people feel they "disturb the peace."

Even with this present attitude toward church bells, we must not lose sight of the messages of joy and sorrow that they communicate to the faithful and their direct call to us to come and worship.

Margaret Pysarchyk

SS. PETER AND PAUL
(June 29/July 12)

This day is preceded by the Fast of the Apostles, which is variable in length. Among our people this day is often referred to as "Petra" or Peter's Day. From this comes the saying: "Peter robs Paul." The fast was identified as Petrovka with a saying: "Petrovka is a time of hunger – the grains and potatoes are almost gone and the new harvest has not yet begun." This was over on the day of SS. Peter and Paul, as many fresh food stuffs were available for the first time! People flocked to the meadows and woods looking for the first mushrooms and the ripening strawberries. These were served at the festive table, which also held fresh new potatoes with chopped dill, the first cucumbers and fresh greens. Accompanying these were chicken, perohi and smoked ham. There was a samovar or pot of hot water to make tea later in the day, when a perog, fresh mushrooms and strawberries would be served.

The "day off" was appreciated because it is said that from this day until the Birth of the Virgin, which comes on September 8/21, "man shall work from heat to heat in the sweat of his brow harvesting enough to last the winter."

It is said that St. Peter takes over the care of the domestic animals from St. George, who was in charge from April 23/May 6. On this day people went up the hill to visit the shepherds, who had been isolated since St. George's Day. Those who had animals took clothing, food and tools to the shepherds, who were running out of supplies. One of the foods that was especially appreciated were rolls called "Mandryk" from the word "to wander." It was believed that SS. Peter and Paul lived on these while they wandered around on their missionary trips. The mandryk are yeast dough rolls filled with a cheese and egg filling (from the forthcoming cookbook).

THE SUMMER MONTHS
(by St. John Chrysostom

"How I am distressed when I call to mind that in festival days the assembled multitudes are like a broad expanse of the sea. But now, not even the smallest part of those multitudes is gathered here today. Where are those who oppress us with their presence on Feast Days? I look for them, and am grieved on their account when I mark what a multitude are perishing of those who are in a state of salvation; how large a part of the body of Christ is like a dead and motionless carcass! They, perhaps, make the summer season their excuse. I hear them saying, 'The heat is excessive; the sun is intolerable; we cannot bear the heat and confined space.' Such excuses are foolish without basis. When you have spiritual wells and rivers, are you afraid of material heat? No, in the market, where there is much turmoil and crowding and scorching wind, how is it that you do not suffocate and find the heat an excuse for absenting yourself there? It is plain that these silly excuses are the offspring of indolence and of supine disposition, destitute of the grace of the Holy Spirit."

FOOLS FOR CHRIST

In reading the "Lives of the Saints" we see that some are identified as "Fools for Christ." It is very difficult for us to understand, from their outward appearance, why these people have been recognized as saints. They are often described as unwashed, unkempt, and babbling to feign sanity.

The Orthodox Church has memorialized them as instructed in Holy Scripture. When God chooses people to serve Him, He does not use the same criterion that we might use. We read about this in the readings for the days of the commemoration of the "Fools." They are 1 Cor. 4:10-17 and Luke 6:17-23. We also can read from 1 Cor. 1:26-30: "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God."

Little is much when God is in it. He wants to use everyone, even you, regardless of how insignificant you may feel you are. He specializes in taking the insignificant, the lowly, the despised person and making them a precious thing in His hand.

PENTECOST (HOLY TRINITY DAY)
50 days after Easter/Pascha

This day, which is considered one of the more important Holy Days, has no set date on the calendar. It varies as it depends on the date of Easter/Pascha. We can read about this day in Acts 2:1-end. Before His Ascension, Jesus instructed His Apostles to stay in Jerusalem. Ten days later when they were all in the Upper Room, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a most dramatic way.

The services on this day differ from the usual. The Divine Liturgy is begun with prayer to the Holy Spirit: "O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth…". This is the same prayer we use to begin our daily prayer. It has been assigned as the official opening prayer of church councils, synods and meetings. We sing or say it before every undertaking.

Vesper Services are held following Divine Liturgy. After the joyful and festive note of the Liturgy, this moving service suddenly assumes the character of a sorrowful and penitential ceremony. The priest kneels before the Royal doors facing the faithful and reads several "kneeling" prayers, which are accompanied by prostrations.

For this day the church and our homes are decorated with greens, flowers, and branches. The altar servers wear green vestaments. Many people also wear a "touch of green." Because of this the day is sometimes called "Zelenyi Svajtke" or Green Sunday. A popular saying is that on this day we say farewell to spring and hello to summer.

In this country many parishes "go to the cemetery" on this day. Traditionally, the church congregation went to the cemetery on the Saturday before following the panahida held in the church. The names of the deceased were read here. As the day was quite long, people took a picnic lunch, which they shared with anyone who came by. This always included a memorial kutia, blini, green colored eggs, honey priatki (cookies) and pastries (from forthcoming cookbook).

PRAYER TO THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

O Holy Angel of Christ, I fall down and pray to thee, my holy guardian, given me from holy Baptism for the protection of any sinful body and soul. By my laziness and bad habits, I have angered thy most pure light, and have driven thee away from me by all my shameful deeds, lies, slanders, envy, condemnations, scorn, disobedience, brotherly-hatred, grudges, love of money, adultery, anger, meanness, greed, excess, talkativeness, negative and evil thoughts, proud ways, dissolute madness, having self-will in all the desires of the flesh. O my evil will, which even the dumb animals do not follow! How canst thou look at me or approach me who am like a stinking dog? With what eyes, O Angel of Christ, wilt thou look at me so badly snared in evil deeds? How can I ask forgiveness for my bitter, evil and wicked deeds, into which I fall every day and night, and every hour? But I fall down and pray, O my holy guardian: pity me, thy sinful and unworthy servant (Name). Be my helper and protector against my wicked enemy, by thy holy prayers, and make me a partaker of the Kingdom of God with all the Saints, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

WHO ART EVERYWHERE

"Why a Holy Spirit? Why can't I just talk to God directly?" This was the question an inquirer asked, trying to understand the grand Mystery of the Trinity. There is no such thing as a silly question. To understand we must ask.

But how do we explain the most Mysterious in the Mystery of the Trinity, since He hides Himself so well? It is not so hard to imagine the Father because of His very name, even though the image that arises of a good and powerful Old Man does not really describe the One Who is the Source of Divinity. The Son made it easy for us to imagine Him because He became a historic Person well described in the Gospels.

But how do we describe Someone Who appears as a Bird, as a Flame or as Wind? It is the nature and the mission of the Holy Spirit to not show Himself, but rather to show, proclaim and represent the Son, just as the Son represents the Father.

Perhaps it would be best to simply say that the very act of putting this question is a sign that the Spirit is already present in a mysterious way in the one who questions. Without Him there would be neither questions nor answers regarding the immense mysteries of life and the universe. The Holy Spirit is God who lives in us – in each being who asks, who answers and who tries to understand and live the mysteries of existence. as the prayer of Pentecost puts it, He is the One "who is everywhere present and fills all things."

Dabs of Thoughts

We marvel at modern computers; but God can hear a billion prayers and is omnipotent and "everywhere present" omniscient. We need to raise our sights as to who God is; then having raised them, raise them again and again until we realize that our finite minds can never get there! The Orthodox Church surely has it right when its theology emphasizes that He is a Mystery.

Wounded self-respect is like an aching tooth; it gnaws constantly at one.

With unusual kindness the Saint (Seraphim) blessed them, and seeing through the brother's despondency, said: "Fill my heart with joy and banish a sinful sadness, O Virgin, who receives the Fullness of Joy." Then stamping his foot the Holy Elder said with vigor and rapture: "We have no need to be despondent; for Christ has vanquished everything, raised Adam, released Eve, and slain death!" (From St. Seraphim A Spiritual Biography)

WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM! I dreamed that the Lord took my weekly contribution to the church, multiplied it by ten, and turned this amount into my weekly income. Why, I couldn't even make a car payment. What can a person do on $50 a week? Suppose the Lord took your offering and multiplied it by ten and made that your weekly income. How much would it be? This might give you a fresh look at the needs of your church.

A father's most powerful lesson is his personal example. If he is rude or abusive to his wife and children, they will learn to do the same. If he has no time in his life for God and the Church, neither will his children.

To follow Jesus Christ means also to obey the Word of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must listen to, believe and practice all that Jesus Christ has said in the Gospel and through His Apostles , and we must do all this … in simplicity of heart. (St. Innocent)

Your presence in church makes our Church stronger, as the army of Christian soldiers marches on against the terrible attacks of evil upon our souls and our families.



EDITORS' NOTES

A new saint, St. Raphael, was recognized last month. Protocol called for all heads of autocephalous churches to be notified so that his name would be added to their calendars. That brings a question to mind – we have written that St. Patrick is not listed on the calendar in March nor is St. Valentine in February. This has brought a few letters concerning this. We use three books written in Russian for our research. We follow their listings. There are many calendars being printed at this time. Some of them have saints that are questionable. Is there an approved calendar at this time? If not, this should be studied before correct listing is lost.

We received a package of Easter Basket covers too late to be sold for this Easter. If you wish one, order now for next year. Many are ordering them as gifts for children and godchildren or as wedding gifts. $30 for hand counted and embroidered covers. Also, again available are the 27 cassettes containing traditional Russian Orthodox music sung by the best choirs in the world plus the gospel reading for each Sunday of the year. Send $130, no other charges. Perfect for the shut-in or those a distance from a church.

We want to thank all of you who remembered us for Holy Pascha. It made us feel a little less like "siroti." There are so many good people in the world, and we are blessed to know so many of them.

Mary is politely nudging us to continue to print letters about Baba. She sent us a little figurine of Baba complete with big hat and purse. She stands where we see her all the time and she is a conscience jogger, Mary.

Will we meet you on our tour of the Carpathian area on September 7 to 17? Call for info at 570/256-7232.

The Stroyens

* * * * * *

Trying to squash a rumor is like trying to unring a bell

BIBLE QUIZ

We will start a Bible Quiz and give questions and answers about the most fascinating and inspiring book in the world. Some of the answers you may know immediately. Some you may guess. And some will really surprise you.

1/ Who used rods of poplar, hazel, and chestnut tree to make genetic changes in his cattle?

2/ What plant had such a bitter taste that it became a symbol for sorrow and disaster?

3/ What, according to the New Testament, produces the smallest seed of any plant?

4/ Which book mentions the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley?

5/ What is the only book of the Bible to mention the apple tree?

ANSWERS: 1/Jacob (Gen 30:37-39). 2/Wormwood (Prov 5:4; Amos 5:7). 3/Mustard (Matt 13:31). 4/ Song of Solomon (2:1). 5/ Song of Solomon (2:3)

PRESS FUND

We have been publishing **The Orthodox Herald** for over 48 years. We did not formally start the Press Fund. It was spontaneous; some of our readers send in funds to make sure we would continue publishing. And we give thanks/spasebo to all who have helped for almost half a century. In a strange way, this Fund keeps people informed about deaths and locations. We were told that a recent donation in memory of a loved one brought many cards from friends located some distance away.

Helping this month are: **Dee Baumgarten,** Connie Morgan, Mary Kraynok, Olga Koda, Anonymous, Mary Kochmaruk, **Olga Lorko Anderson,** Nancy Hurchik-Monaco, Steve and Justyna Pelak, Helen Costa, Anne Krawetz, Lori Ortega, Stephanie Hojnicki, Angelyn Mitchell, Ethel Watlock, David Halchak, **Irene Rhenish,** Victor Karaway, Mary Walezak George Popovich, Ann Smolak, L. Marousek, **Anne Dorozynski,** Irene Starr, Irene Sulich, Alice Conte, Paul Laskovich, Julia Petronko, Juliana Kuzmack. **Steve and Lenora Evancho** for health of Claudia Sulin and Father Basil and Matushka Nina. Jim and Johanna in memory of beloved departed ones. Kathy Johnson in memory of mother, Marie Marzine. **John and Olga Hromyk** in memory of Hromyk, Stroyen and Perevzniak families. John and Marie Handera in memory of son, John Nicholas, parents Nicholas and Anna Macechok and brothers John and Nicholas. Olga Weiss prayers for health of her and her sister's families, and prayers for deceased family members. Vera Utterbach in memory of husband William. Betty Polonina in memory of husband John. Dora Mitchell in memory of brother-in-law Albert Hopay, who died February 18, 2000.



I have been doing much research for a book which will feature the customs and traditions of "our people." While I was writing the section on funerals and prayers for the departed, I found that along with fish and blini, honey prianiki were always on the menu at the repasts. What were honey prianiki? I found that there are at least 40 different types varying with area and use. They are baked in sheets, dropped from a spoon or stamped with a wooden carved seal. They are used as wedding mementos, New Year's gifts or at repasts. There are recipes for prianiki, which are so ancient they predate Christianity. Over time, these recipes have been modified until we have many additions. I had been given a beautiful large heart-shaped prianiki while living in Germany and have purchased one on the road between St. Petersburg and Moscow. We have the blessing of graves and visits to the cemetery this month. My book says that honey prianiki are eaten on these occasions. I offer this recipe this month.

Prianiki (Spice Cookies)

2 Tbls. butter — 2 Tbls. ground nuts
2/3 cup honey — 1/2 cup thick jam
1 egg
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. each cardamon, ginger, cinnamon and star anise

GLAZE:
1/2 cup powdered sugar
2 Tbls. lemon juice

Cream butter and honey. Beat in egg. Stir together flour with baking soda and spices. Gradually add to honey mixture. Chill dough in refrigerator at least 2 hours. Roll out small amounts of dough on a lightly floured board to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into 2 1/2 inch circles. Mix jam and nuts. Spread generous teaspoon on every second circle. Try not to get on edges. Wet edges with water. Place second plain circle over jam-covered one. Seal edges securely. Place on greased baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes or until golden brown. Watch carefully as honey cookies burn easily. Cool on rack. Put paper under rack. Mix sugar and lemon juice. Pour this glaze over warm cookies. Make 1 1/2 doz. cookies. Suggestions: You may change spices. Use thick jam.

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"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

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FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June. This year, this coincides with Pentecost. Both fall on June 18. We realize how appropriate this is if we pay close attention to the Kneeling Prayers of this day.

We share some meditations for this day. O holy God, through the prophet Moses, You gave us a command to honor our fathers, and blessed Abraham and made him the father of many nations, and gave the twelve patriarchs to the world through the union of Jacob with Rachel. Pour forth Your loving kindness upon all fathers of this day, and grant them good health, prosperity and salvation; we pray to You, O Lord: Hear us and have mercy.

O Merciful Father, accept the prayers that we offer You in behalf of the fathers of our parish, whether they are young, in their middle years or in the prime of their lives. Strengthen the love they have for You, their families and children; we pray to You, O Lord: Hear us and have mercy.

O heavenly Father, the Source of all life, send down Your blessing upon all new fathers and instruct them in the joys and responsibilities of fatherhood. Preserve them in holiness; that following Your blessed commandments, they may teach their children to glorify, praise and sing to You all the days of their lives; we pray to You, O Lord: Hear us and have mercy.

We also pray for the repose of the souls of the servants of God, all our deceased fathers, mothers, grandfathers, relatives, friends and all who have fell asleep in the Lord before us. Grant them rest in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and number them among the just; we pray to You, O Lord: Hear us and have mercy.

(Ray Mastroberte)

Home Bible Reading Schedule

JUNE 2000

1	John 9:39-10-9	17	John 21:15-25
2	John 10:17-28	18	**John 7:37-52, 8:12**
3	John 10:27-38	19	Matt 18:10-20
4	**John 9:1-38**	20	Matt 4:25-5:13
5	John 11:47-57	21	Matt 5:20-26
6	John 12:19-36	22	Matt 5:27-32
7	John 12:36-47	23	Matt 5:33-41
8	Luke 24:36-53	24	Matt 5:42-48
9	Luke 14:1-11	25	**Matt 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30**
10	John 14:10-21	26	Matt 6:31-34, 7:9-11
11	**John 17:1-13**	27	Matt 7:15-21
12	John 14:27-15:7	28	Matt 7:21-33
13	John 16:2-13	29	Matt 8:23-27
14	John 16:15-23	30	Matt 9:14-17
15	John 16:23-33		
16	John 17:18-26		

BIBLE STUDY

Those who follow the Bible Reading Schedule may well wonder why the readings are not continuous and may skip around. One of the reasons is that if the Bible is read in sequence it would not reflect the changing moods of the seasons and the Holy days in the Church Calendar.

This must have created a problem for the compilers of the Schedule of Readings. They tried to follow the text but they found that making cuts and adjustments in the order of the text was sometimes necessary. Since the Bible was divided into chapters and verses much later than the lectionary was compiled the readings may have strange cutoffs and we may find that some readings will include the first verse from the next chapter. Sometimes we find that the verses jump around and are made into one reading, for example see the reading for June 25.

Besides this, the Epistle and Gospel readings for the weeks after Pentecost (June 18) are not very specific and seem to be an attempt to acquaint Christians with the revealed doctrine of the Evangelists and Apostolic writings. Perhaps they were structured in such a way that the newly-Baptized would learn more about Jesus.

WINTER'S GRACE

Sometimes on life's long road it is helpful to pause and reflect on the journey we are making. We should reflect on our memories, both joyful and painful, so that we can move into the future with new wisdom and strength.

We should systematically let go of bitterness and blame and prayerfully, simply behold our lives. Each day we should open the door of memory and journey again with Jesus down our life's path. From our earliest recollections, through the joys and pains of childhood and adolescence, and on to the quest for love and the fullness of life in adulthood, we should try to recognize the ever present, loving touch of God. Each day we should begin with prayer and a moment of meditation in which we enter more deeply into those memories.

If we embrace our memories with the help of the Spirit of god, we will discover the goodness hidden in our wounds.

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You never get a second chance to make a good first impression.